

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Cathy Bosscher <bosscher@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:26 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: House Bill, HB 5232, comments against

I am opposed to proposed House bill BH 5232 (Preservation Modernization). I do not see a need for this bill and it will do harm to existing historic districts.

My husband and I have lived in Heritage Hill, Grand Rapids, since 1988, raising 4 children there. We bought the house knowing it was in an historic district. We've made some improvements over the years and have worked with historic preservation with no real issues. We appreciate that our neighborhood continues to improve in property value, due to this historic preservation attitude and board. We made the decision to buy in a historic district, understanding the rules and knowing this would assist our neighborhood to continue to improve, which it has.

If people do not want to abide by historic preservation guidelines, they should not buy a house in a district. There is a process in place to designate a historic district that seems to be working fine. This bill has been raised by East Grand Rapids congress person and homeowners who did not want a historic district in that town and it did not pass there. Why now do these same people feel that they should eliminate historic district preservation for other areas?

I am actually outraged that our law makers feel that this is a good use of their time when we have so many other importation issues in Michigan. Our governmental agencies did not understand the science behind their jobs when they authorized the Flint water change, leading to the poisoning of a city. Our state government dismissed Flint citizen's concerns for 1.5 years, possibly due to Flint's racial and economic make-up. Our VA hospital is deficient in a recent study, leading to substandard care for our veterans. As a state, we were trying to determine how to pay for better roads until the Flint situation hit the headlines. And now these legislators and lobbyists have decided that historic preservation efforts outside of their (wealthy) district is their priority? Shame on them.
